



CRFG San Diego Chapter Newsletter

January 2010

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Mission Statement

"To encourage and foster public and scientific interest, research, education in and the preservation of rare fruit plants that have edible seeds, fruits, leaves, stems or roots and are not commonly grown commercially. The furtherance and encouragement of these activities shall be for the benefit of the public rather than commercial interests."

From: <http://www.crfgsandiego.org/faq.htm>

January Meeting:
Scionwood Exchange and Propagation of
Dormant Hardwood Cuttings
January 27, 2010 @ 7 PM
Room 101 at Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

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Greetings and Happy New Year to all!

This year's Holiday potluck was a wonderful event and a great way to both end the old year and to begin 2010. Thank you to everyone who participated, and for those who were unable to attend, we missed you and we hope to see you at upcoming meetings and events.

This month we will again have sign-up sheets for the new committees which we are hoping to develop. So far 17 volunteers have signed up and I hope many more of you will volunteer to participate at some level in one or more than one of these committees. Thank you to all of our volunteers, your participation will help to make our club more meaningful and enjoyable for all. We will have a group meeting with all of the committees in early February to get everyone off to a good start. Please refer to the Dec. newsletter or go to our San Diego CRFG website (www.crfgsandiego.org) for a list of the committees and their missions if you need more information on these committees.

This meeting we are all looking forward to the yearly scion exchange. Please refer to last month's newsletter if you need information on how to collect and store scion wood prior to the January meeting. Please bring only deciduous fruit tree varieties (no citrus or subtropicals at this time). The scion exchange will take place after a short informational presentation and we are asking all members to not take any cuttings or scion wood until the presentation is over. Members who bring scion wood to share will receive priority in the selection of cuttings or scion wood. We are asking that all members take no more than two pieces of scion from each variety and select from no more than 8 varieties until everyone gets a chance to participate in the scion exchange. We will have descriptions of most of the varieties available on the scion wood tables for the review of anyone who is interested. (These same variety tables will be posted to our local CRFG website prior to the Feb. meeting.) Those who will be participating in the scion exchange, remember to bring plastic bags, masking tape or nursery tape, and a marking pen for the scions.

Thank you again to all our members and volunteers. Hope to see you at the scion exchange on January 27, 2010. Sincerely, Tom Del Hotal

Secretary's Report

by Cielo Foth

At the December 22nd General Meeting

Forty-one members and 21 guests attended our December Holiday Potluck Dinner. Members and guests brought a variety of main and side dishes, dessert and fresh fruits to share. As he has done for many years, Barry Resetco brought his traditional turkey and ham as the chapter's main dish. Many thanks for all of Barry's years of cooking, and hopefully, this year, someone else will take charge of the cooking to let Barry retire. For the first time, we had live music. Thanks to David Long and his quartet for serenading us with holiday music.

The 2010 incoming board (Tom Del Hotal, chair; Jim Neitzel, vice-chair; Joy Bladykas, treasurer; Cielo Foth, secretary; David Yetz, ex-officio) was installed by David Long, who served as Nominating Committee Chair. For their volunteer service, the exiting board members were each given a \$30 gift certificate to Merritt Mountain Nursery.

Tom posted the proposed committees, their missions and responsibilities; and sign-up sheets for respective committees. There was also a sign up sheet for group purchase of blueberries. Members turned in their completed survey, and the evening ended after the gift exchange.

Thanks to everyone who participated and brought holiday cheer to our holiday dinner.

Summary of the (Unofficial) Board Meeting Minutes of 12/2/2009

1. Board Meeting time and location: The monthly board meeting is on the first Wednesday monthly at 6:30 pm in Rm. 104, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park.
2. Committees: The Proposed SD Chapter Committees, their missions & responsibilities will be posted at the Dec. general meeting for members to sign up. 2nd sign up opportunity is at the Jan. general meeting, and group meeting for volunteer committees at Feb. board meeting with introduction of committees and volunteers at Feb. general meeting. (For the list of proposed committees, please refer to the Dec. 2009 Newsletter.)
3. Newsletter Deadline & Additions: The newsletter will be mailed no later than 10 days before the general meeting, and no later than 7 days by email. Articles for publication in the newsletter must be submitted to the newsletter editor no later than 2nd Wednesday of the month. Refreshment requests for upcoming meeting to be brought by members in alphabetical order (last name).
4. New at the monthly general meeting: Suggestion Box; "Thank You" Bulletin Board at refreshment table and at opportunity table.
5. Plant sale, if any, will be held at the South Bay Green Scene in August.

(Note: This was an unofficial meeting because it was held before the incoming board was installed.)

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, February 3rd at 6:30 pm. All members welcome.

A copy of the full Board Meeting Minutes will be available at the monthly general meetings. Any member interested in a copy can request the secretary by email to secretary@crfgsandiego.org or by phone at 619.818.0093.

Members' Survey Results

by Cielo Foth

Thanks to those who completed and returned their members' survey. If you haven't turned yours in, it's never too late. You can bring it to the next general meeting on Jan. 27th. The result below is based on the seventeen surveys we have received to date. For questions #4 through 9, members checked as many choices as applicable, and only the top 3 highest choices are listed. For question #11, 5 willing drivers can carry a total of 10 passengers. Not all questions were answered in the 17 surveys.

1. How long have you been a member?
3 (Less than 12 mos.); 5 (1 to 3 yrs.); 1 (3 to 5 yrs.); 1 (5 to 10 yrs.); 7 (10 yrs. +)
2. How many meetings do you attend per year?
4 (1 to 3); 4 (3 to 6); 2 (6 to 9); 7 (I'm always there!)
3. What reason(s) do you miss the meetings?
8 (busy); 3 (not interested in programs)
4. What do you like about your membership?
14 (learning something); 13 (interesting programs); 10 (fruit tasting)
5. What types of fruit trees do you grow?
16 (citrus); 14 deciduous (stone fruits, pomegranates); 12 subtropical (guavas, loquats, cherimoyas, etc.)
6. Are you interested in learning about these fruit trees?
12 (citrus); 12 (stone fruits/ pomegranates); 11 (blueberries, blackberries, etc.); 10 (avocados); (10) grapes)
7. Are you interested in learning:
14 (rain harvesting & greywater); 12 (drought tolerant fruit trees); 8 (organic gardening)
8. What workshops would interest you?
11 (dormant pruning & spraying); 10 (grafting - learn different methods); 8 (summer pruning)
9. Are you interested in Field trips to:
12 (rare fruit nurseries); 9 (South Bay Green Scene, Southwestern Botanical Garden in Chula Vista, summer) 8 (Green Scene, Fullerton Arboretum, April 2010)
10. Field trips: How far will you be willing to travel?
4 (25 to 50 miles one way); 4 (50 to 100 miles); 5 (100+ miles)
11. Carpooling:
8 (as Rider); 5 (as Driver)
12. Charter Bus: How much would you be willing to pay?
5 (\$15 to 20); 2 (\$20 to 25); 4 (\$25 to 35); 3 (just say when!)
13. Would you open your garden for "members only" tour?
2 (yes); 10 (no)
14. Are you interested in serving on a committee or volunteering?
6 (yes); 9 (no)
17. *What do you want out of your membership?*
3 (enjoy learning); 2 (socializing); (want fieldtrips); (plant sale); (doesn't want CRFG Inc. membership); (Have meetings on time)

Vice-Chair Report by Jim Neitzel

2010 Calendar of Events

The calendar below shows planned schedule of events through June 2010. It is a work in progress, and may change. We urge our members to come and participate in the program, workshops, and fieldtrips. It takes a few people to put together a calendar that we hope will please the majority. If you haven't turned in your survey, please do so to help us finalize our calendar for 2010. Thanks to those who have opened their gardens to our members, for your feedback and your support to make this year an enjoyable one for everyone. I can generally be reached from 7 to 9 am and after dark at 619.262.8959.

2010 Calendar of Events		
Month	Program	Field Trip / Event
January 27	Scionwood Exchange & Propagation of dormant hardwood cuttings	
February 24	Deciduous Grafting & Propagation by Cuttings	2/3 Wed. 6:30 pm: Board Mtg., Rm 104, Casa Del Prado 2/7 Sun 10 am to 12 pm Rainharvesting & Greywater Talk & Garden Tour (University Heights); 2/13 Sat. 830 am to 1 pm: SD Botanic Garden Work Party 2/20 Sat. Annual Cherimoya Assn. Meeting, Carpentaria, CA 2/28 to 3/2: Small Farm Conference "Sustaining our Bounty," Marriott Del Mar Hotel, San Diego
March 24	Cherimoya & Atemoya, propagation by grafting; tasting	3/3 Wed. 6:30 pm: Board Mtg., Rm 104; 3/13 Sat. 9 am: SD Botanic Garden Work Party; March TBA: UC Riverside Citrus Tour; 3/27 Sat. 10 am to 12 pm: Loquat & Avocado grafting workshop (Mt. Helix garden)
April 28	Citrus new varieties & culture; propagation by softwood cutting & "June" budding	4/7 Wed. 6:30 pm: Board Mtg., Rm. 104; 4/10 Sat. 9 am: SD Botanic Work Party; 4/17 Sat. 10 am to 4 pm Green Scene Plant & Garden Show, Fullerton Arboretum; 4/24 Sat. 10 to 12 pm: Garden Tour, Rancho Bernardo
May 26	Blueberries & Caneberries, varieties & culture	5/5 Wed. 6:30 pm: Board Mtg., Rm. 104; 5/8 Sat. 9 am: SD Botanic Work Party; May TBA: Summer Pruning & Mango grafting workshop
June 23	Lychee & Longan, Propagation by airlayering; guava	6/2 Wed. 6:30 pm: Board Mtg., Rm. 104; 6/11 to 7/5: SD County Fair; 6/12 Sat. 9 am: SD Botanic Work Party

Thanks for Those Helping Hands!

Many of our members have pitched in when needs for help arise. I'd like to acknowledge a few unsung deeds of late. When Jack Skeels had a stroke and car accident last summer, some of us met with David Yetz to extend and redesign an irrigation system with timers and lines to serve nearly every area of the extensive Skeels garden and orchard. What a godsend! Thanks loads, David!

Members Dick and Alice Snow not only are fulltime grandparents, but best of neighbors to Jack & Helen Skeels and Paul Phillips. Since they can no longer drive, transportation becomes critical. The Snow's thoughtfulness means these longtime members can still attend our Chapter's events and medical appointments, if needed.

Additionally, everyone please study the various volunteer committees we've designed to supersize our organization's functioning and pleasure. Then sign up where it best suits you!

Thank you, Jim N.

Upcoming February Events

Rain Harvesting & Greywater Talk & Garden Tour: Sun. Feb. 7th 10 am to 12 pm

Come see water harvesting in action! Guided by [Water Harvesting Professional and Permaculturist, Brook Sarson](#), you'll see how a 1320 gallon rainwater tank combined with laundry greywater and bath greywater work together to grow a garden of edibles using only 1/4 of the water that most San Diegans use each day. As you tour this urban farm setting, you'll see natural building techniques including a cob chicken coop, decorative benches as well as an earth pizza oven. Brook will be on-hand to talk to you about solutions for your space and how you can make a difference during San Diego 's water crisis and beyond.

This event is for members only. **To sign up:** sign up at the January 27th general meeting or send email to cielo92106@yahoo.com or call 619.818.0093. Only those members who are confirmed will receive the address 5 days prior to the event.

Annual California Cherimoya Assn: Sat. 2/20

The meeting will be held at Carpintería's Woman's Club at 1059 Vallecito Rd. , Carpinteria , CA 93013-2447. Some members from the North County and San Diego Chapters typically go to this annual event. **For more information**, contact Scott Vandekar at 805-684-7900.

California Small Farm Conference "Sustaining our Bounty": 2/28 to 3/2

The California Small Farm Conference is the state's premier gathering of small farmers and those who support them. The three day educational conference includes on-farm tours, focused workshops, general educational sessions and opportunities for peer networking. Through day-long short courses and farm tours, intensive classroom workshops, engaging keynote addresses and numerous networking opportunities, the 2010 California Small Farm Conference will give small farmers, farmers' market managers and others in California's small farm industry the information they need to be successful. It will be held at Marriott Del Mar Hotel, San Diego . **For more information** visit <http://www.californiafarmconference.com/joomla/index..php> or call 888-712-4188



San Diego CRFG Board Contact Info:**Chair: Tom Del Hotal**Chair@CRFGSanDiego.org

(619) 454-2628

Vice-Chair: Jim Neitzel

(619) 262-8959

(generally from 7-9 am & after dark)

Treasurer: Joy BladykasTreasurer@CRFGSanDiego.org

(619) 488-4442

Secretary: Cielo FothSecretary@CRFGSanDiego.org

(619) 818-0093

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Dawn Martin

California Rare Fruit Growers**San Diego Chapter**

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USA

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Upcoming February Events – at a Glance

2/3 6:30 pm	Board Mtg.
2/7 10 am - 12 pm	Rain Harvesting & Greywater Tour – Must Sign Up
2/13 8:30 – 1 pm	SD Botanic Work Party
2/20	Annual Calif. Cherimoya Assn. Mtg.
2/28 to 3/2	California Small Farm Conference